programme including ozone measurement in Antarctica since 1981.

[English]

Exploration and Extraction of Minerals

378. SHRI DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the air survey work has been expedited to boost exploration and extraction of minerals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration work of minerals has been assigned to some foreign companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in airborne geophysical surveys to boost exploration of mineral deposits including hydrocarbons and groundwater. The airborne survey maps are also utilised to refine the geological maps. Multisensor and aeromagnetic surveys using GSI's Twin Otter Aircraft has been taken up in parts of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh covering a total of 1,91,929 line km. from 1988 till June, 96. There are three types of airborne surveys conducted by GSI (i) multi-sensor surveys in selected blocks using Twin Otter Aircraft to GSI; (ii) Aeromagnetic survey for refinement of geological database and oil exploration by GSI's Twin Otter Aircraft; and (iii) Regional Aeromagnetic surveys under National Programme.

In order to give further impetus to exploration through aerial survey the Government has issued guidelines in October, 1996 under which large areas upto 5000 sq.km. for a single Prospecting Licence Subject to the condition that total aggregate area held by one single Company should not exceed 10,000 sq.kms. for the whole country can be granted. The grant of large area for such aerial prospecting is linked with schemes for relinquishment and to a minimum expenditure commitment or specific physical targets. The Government has recently granted 9 (Nine) Prospecting Licences for large areas to 3 Companies (Hindustan Zinc Ltd./multinational companies.

[English]

Power Production in Private Sector

379. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered to review a Private Sector Power Policy which has failed to take of in any significate manner;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether any overhauling of power policy is being considered; and

(d) if so, the main changes that are being considered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) In the context of qaucity of resources in the State/Central public sector for capacity addition in power generation, a policy to encourage private sector participation was formulated in 1991 and is currently under implementation. The policy is reviewed from time to time to make it more effective.

(c) At present, the Government is not contemplating any overhauling of the private power policy.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Power Project with German Assistance

380. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major German power giants have offered to set up two show case 1000 MW power projects in India with German Export credit at competitive tariff rates and fuel supply arrangements;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the offer;